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WORLD CONFERENCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS
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Agenda item 9

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT

Report of the Drafting Committee

Addendum

The role of Governments in furthering the promotion and protection of human rights

The African Regional Preparatory Meeting for the World Conference on Human Rights,

Emphasizing that States, in adhering to the Charter of the United Nations and adopting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, have pledged themselves to respect, promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all, without distinction as to race, sex, language, religion, nationality or place of origin,

Aware that Governments, and their national institutions, have a primary responsibility to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, while at the same time taking the necessary measures to fulfil their obligations as parties to the various international human rights instruments,

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Recognizing that Governments, particularly in developing countries, although fully committed to the protection and promotion of human rights, may encounter difficulties in fulfilling their commitments due to the limited financial and material resources at their disposal, and that they should therefore be assisted in their endeavours by the international community,

1. Invites Governments to ensure that their constitutions and other legal instruments incorporate the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all the other universally recognized principles, including those contained in the various human rights instruments to which they are parties;

2. Affirms that Governments have a responsibility to ensure such conditions as are necessary for the full enjoyment and promotion of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, and particularly for human development, social progress and improved health and educational standards;

3. Encourages Governments, with the assistance of the international community and bearing in mind the interrelationship between development and human rights, to promote all forms of development as a sound foundation for the respect, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms;

4. Urges Governments to take all necessary measures to guarantee that the rights proclaimed in the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as well as other international human rights instruments are respected and enjoyed equally by all persons, regardless of race or conviction;

5. Calls upon Governments, with the assistance and support of the international community, to enhance their national institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights, with particular emphasis on educational programmes and programmes to stimulate public awarenesss with a view to fostering a better general understanding of human rights;

6. Stresses that respect for, the promotion of and the necessary realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms also require the commitment of all Governments to respect fully the principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, inter alia the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States.

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